

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145067

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, SF, WA

SUBJECT: FRENCH BRIEFING OF NUJOMA ON CAPE TOWN TALKS
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REF: USUN 1976 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
FRENCH TEXT OF BRIEFING GIVEN SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA
IN LUANDA BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR THABAULT:

BEGIN TEXT

I TALKED FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS TODAY AT OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES' RESIDENCE WITH SAM NUJOMA, PRESIDENT OF SWAPO. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PETER NANYEMBA, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE; LUCAS ECHAMBA, GENERAL TREASURER; ANTHONY KATAMILA, DELEGATE AT DAR ES SALAAM; AND HERMAN NANGOLO ITHETE, HEAD OF THE SWAPO MISSION AT LUANDA.

I BEGAN BY OUTLINING THE PRINCIPAL WAYS IN WHICH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF OUR CONVERSATIONS AT THE CAPE. MY LISTENERS SEEMED INTERESTED AT FIRST, ESPECIALLY BY THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL INsofar AS THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A BY-PASSING OF

THE MEMBERS OF THE TURNHALLE. THEY ASKED ME MANY QUESTIONS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND THE CONTROL THAT THE UNITED NATIONS COULD EXERT IN THAT REGARD.

THEN I BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT OF SWAPO IN DETAIL ON ALL THOSE POINTS, BASING MY COMMENTS ON THE MEMORANDUM WHICH THE FIVE DREW UP JOINTLY AT THE CAPE. MR. SAM NUJOMA IMMEDIATELY ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT A DOCUMENT TO HIM SETTING FORTH THE TOPICS OF THAT STATEMENT. HE ARGUED THAT AT MAPUTO THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLIED HIM WITH THE TEXT OF OUR PREVIOUS MEMORANDUM. I THEREFORE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE EXPLAINING TO HIM THAT I COULD NOT SATISFY HIS REQUEST. HE SAW A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ILL WILL THERE AND IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO DISPEL THAT IMPRESSION.

AFTER SEVERAL REMARKS ON THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WITH ANY FREE AND IMPARTIAL ELECTIONS, MR. SAM NUJOMA, WHO STRUCK ME AS A RELATIVELY OPEN MAN, BUT WILY AND SUSPICIOUS, DECLARED FORCEFULLY THAT SWAPO COULD NOT ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL IN NAMIBIA BY SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN IF THAT APPOINTMENT WERE SHORTLY FOLLOWED BY THE DISPATCH TO WINDHOEK OF A UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE. AT THAT POINT HE TOLD ME THE TURNHALLE WAS ONLY A COLLECTION OF PUPPETS AND HE DIDN'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT IT SET UP A GOVERNMENT AT WINDHOEK.

MR. SAM NUJOMA ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY MUST EVACUATE NAMIBIA. A CEASE-FIRE MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY REPLACED BY "BLUE-

HELMETS." FOR SWAPO THE ONLY LEGAL AUTHORITY EMPOWERED TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD IS STILL THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

THE PRESIDENT OF SWAPO NEXT AFFIRMED THAT THE PROPOSALS CONTEMPLATED DURING OUR TALKS AT THE CAPE DID NOT APPEAR TO HIM TO CORRESPOND TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE IS ALL THE MORE CONVINCED OF THAT INASMUCH AS HE CONFUSES THOSE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SPECIFICALLY RESOLUTION NO. 385) AND THOSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I ATTEMPTED TO SHOW HIM THAT THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED AT THE CAPE WERE STILL IN HARMONY WITH SECURITY COUNCIL
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RESOLUTION NO. 385, BUT I HAD OBVIOUSLY COLLIDED WITH A

BASIC POSITION OF HIS. HE WAS ABSOLUTELY SET AGAINST MAKING A CONCESSION ON THE COMPETENCE OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

NEVERTHELESS, MY IMPRESSION REMAINS THAT MR. SAM NUJOMA IS A REALISTIC MAN. A MOMENT AFTER DENOUNCING THE SOUTH AFRICANS' BAD FAITH AND LACK OF SCRUPLES HE TOLD ME, A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF OUR TALK, THAT IF THEY BEHAVED REASONABLY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND IF THEY AGREED WITHOUT RESERVATION TO ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS ALREADY DECIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, THEY COULD SAFEGUARD THEIR INTERESTS BY ACCORDS WITH THE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA.

FURTHERMORE, SWAPO SEEMS NOT YET TO HAVE MADE A FINAL CHOICE REGARDING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM TO BE ADOPTED IN NAMIBIA UNDER ITS GOVERNMENT. AS MATTERS STAND NOW, THEIR THINKING SEEMS TO BE INSPIRED BY A MODERATE SOCIALISM IN WHICH PRAGMATISM PREVAILS OVER IDEOLOGY. THABAUULT. END TEXT

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